



# *APD NEWS*

Public Information Office: (512) 974-5017

715 E. 8<sup>th</sup> St. Austin, Texas 78701

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Jan. 14, 2009**

**Contact:** Public Information Office, 974-5017

### **APD Offers Auto and Burglary Theft Prevention Programs**

The Austin Police Department Auto Theft Interdiction Project will offer residents the opportunity to participate in programs designed to promote auto theft and burglary of vehicle awareness. District Representatives from the North Central Area Command will be available to answer questions or concerns residents may have regarding their community. The event will take place on:

Thursday, January 15, 2009 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m., at the Target Store located at 8601 Research Blvd.

Residents can have their vehicle identification numbers (VIN) etched for free on the vehicle's windows. Additionally, they will be able to register their vehicles with the HEAT (Help End Auto Theft) program.

All vehicles have a federally assigned vehicle identification number (VIN). The etching of a VIN on the window of a vehicle deters thieves because it is more difficult to dispose of property that is identifiable.

HEAT is a statewide vehicle registration program that helps law enforcement identify stolen vehicles. Vehicle owners who normally do not use their cars between 1 a.m. and 5 a.m. sign an agreement allowing officers to stop the vehicle and verify ownership if the vehicle is being driven during those hours.

The APD Auto Theft Interdiction Project program is funded through the Texas Automobile Burglary and Theft Prevention Authority. It is designed to reduce auto theft and burglary of vehicles in the State of Texas.

**Media Advisory:** North Central Area Command Officers will be available for interview at the event.

###

